GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4929
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INDIA`S POSITION IN GLOBAL TELECOM MAP
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the position of India at present in global telecom map;

(b) the teledensity target set by new telecom policy per persons by 2005, 2010;

(c) whether it is a fact that transmission of data is likely to play crucial role in pushing down voice chargers world wide; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SIKDAR)

(a) India is the 8th largest telecom network in the world.

(b) The teledensity target set up by the New Telecom Policy 1999 is 7% by the year 2005 and 15% by the year 2010.

(c)&(d) The tariff for transmission of data is different than voice tariff. Normally, voice charges are charged on the basis of duration of time, whereas the charges for data are on the volume of data being transmitted. However, in case the voice is converted to data form, it can also be transmitted under the category of data, and as such, may become cheaper but the quality of service may also go down simultaneously. Such facilities are available through Voice Over Internet Protocol(VOIP).This is possible through Internet also and Government has already allowed the Internet Service Provider(ISP) to operate VOIP over internet on PC to PC basis anywhere in the world including our country and PC to internet phone only for international calls.